

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/869,904

Examiner

Jonas N. Strickland

Applicant(s)

ICHIKAWA, YATARO

Art Unit

1754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the claims filed on 4/4/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1-14 and 18-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 July 2005 and 05 April 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

STANLEY S. SILVERMAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-14 and 18-23 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instantly claimed invention is allowable over the cited prior art, because the cited prior art fails to disclose an apparatus for treating an exhaust gas in a passage of the exhaust gas by installing a liquid-including substance which has at least partially liquid surface and can adhere to capture at least one of carbon-containing particle in the exhaust gas, wherein at least one liquid is selected from the liquid containing a salt including oxygen acid radical of nitrogen in an amount exceeding a salt including carbonic acid radical dissolved in the liquid-including substance, and the liquid containing a salt including oxygen acid radical of nitrogen having solid that can form the salt including oxygen acid radical of nitrogen by absorbing nitrogen oxides.

Durand et al. (US Patent 5,965,481) discloses a process for preparing a catalyst suitable for the treatment of exhaust gases from internal combustion engines. Durand et al. continues to disclose an aqueous solution comprised of 50 grams of barium carbonate and 400 grams of a cerium nitrate solution (col. 9, lines 55-62). Therefore, Durand et al. discloses a liquid containing a salt including oxygen acid radical of nitrogen in an amount exceeding a salt including carbonic acid radical dissolved in the liquid-including substance. However, Durand et al. does not disclose wherein the liquid has at least a partially liquid surface that can adhere to capture at least one of carbon-containing particle in the exhaust gas, as well as wherein the liquid-including substance

Art Unit: 1754

is installed in the exhaust gas passage from the exhaust gas emission source for the treatment of the exhaust gas.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonas N. Strickland whose telephone number is 571-272-1359. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH, 7:30-5:00, off 1st Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/869,904

Page 4

Art Unit: 1754

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JNS', is positioned above the printed name.

Jonas N. Strickland

May 12, 2005